

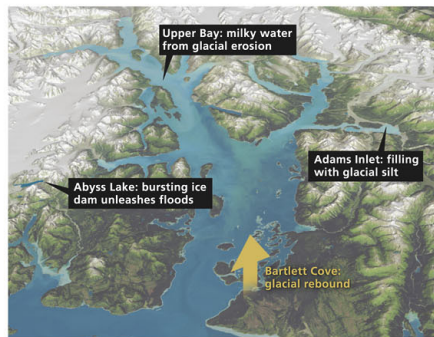
Glaciers Retreat and the Land Rebounds



At Glacier Bay you witness geologic processes otherwise barely discerned in human lifetimes. Underwater evidence shows that the glacier snout pushed into Icy Strait at the maximum extent of the Little Ice Age around 1750.

By 1860 the ice sheet had melted back to what is now Muir Inlet (see enlarged map at far right), exposing two-thirds of Glacier Bay. Forests already had a good start at reclaiming the land along the lower bay.

Cruise ships now travel 65 miles up the bay to view glaciers that reach tidewater. Effects of climate change are magnified near Earth's poles. Most glaciers are retreating now, and part of the bay may soon be in Canada.



As glaciers retreat, absent their great weight the land rebounds. Some Bartlett Cove shoreline is rising one inch per year now. Where glaciers are active at or near tidewater, glacial flour, rock pulverized to powder, may tint bay water gray. Bay and land are still greatly influenced by glaciers.

Visiting the Park

West of Juneau in Southeast Alaska, the park and preserve are reached by boat or plane only. Park headquarters is 65 miles from Juneau at Bartlett Cove. It is 55 more miles from there to the tidewater glaciers. To learn about safety, access, trip planning, lodging, backcountry use, services, activities, river permits, or companies that offer services in the park, contact the park. The free park newspaper *The Fairweather* also offers this information.

Vessel permits are required before entering Glacier Bay from June 1 to August 31. Contact the park at 907-697-2627 or VHF radio—KWM 20 BARTLETT COVE. Reservations are recommended. Some areas are closed or restricted because of bears, nesting birds, humpback whales, or other wildlife activity. Guard against hypothermia even in summer: rain gear, hat, gloves or mittens, and waterproof foot-gear are essential. Brown/grizzly and black bears and moose must be considered dangerous.

More Information
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 140
Gustavus AK 99826-0140
907-697-2230
www.nps.gov/glbsa
email
glbsa_administration@nps.gov

The nonprofit Alaska Natural History Association sells books, maps, charts, and videos by mail. Contact the park for a list. Your purchases help support programs offered by the park staff.

Visit www.visitglacierbay.com for information on Glacier Bay Lodge.

This park and preserve are two of more than 380 parks in the National Park System. The National Park Service cares for these special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Visit www.nps.gov to learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities.

